

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA	FORM NO.
F	303



City Lexington

Address 38-40 Woburn Street

Historic Name Locke-Callahan House

Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1855

Source 1876 map; stylistic analysis

Style Italianate Double Workers Cottage

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings _____

Major alterations (with dates) _____

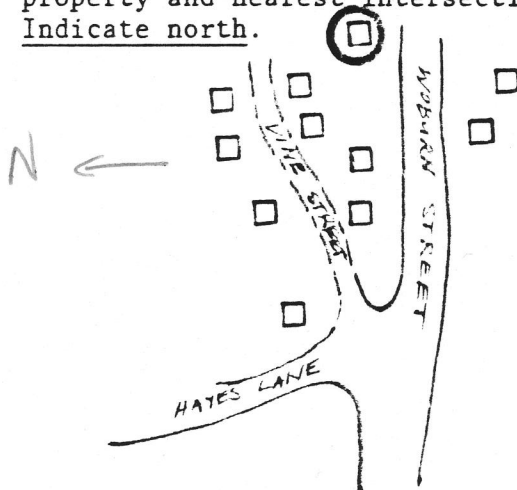
Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 6812 ft.²

Setting Gable end facing busy street;
near other modest nineteenth century
houses.

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Recorded by Nancy S. Seasholes

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date April, 1984

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

See area form F.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

See area form F.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town
LEXINGTON 38-40 WOBURN STREET

Property Address
Area(s) Form No.

F	303
---	-----

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The double house at 38-40 Woburn Street is a variation on the workers cottage which is found throughout the Woburn Street area. Like the cottages, each section is three bays long and one room deep with a center entrance on the side and a narrow center chimney, but this house is one-and-a-half stories high in contrast to the one-and-a third story cottage. Also this house is on a granite and fieldstone foundation, suggesting a construction date in the first half of the 19th century. It is not, however, indicated on the 1852 map. A house with a similar, very narrow profile, although two stories high, is located at 65 Woburn Street.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

A road from Lexington Center to Woburn has existed since the 17th century. In the early 19th century Woburn Street began to develop as a locus of small cottages however the major development of the area seems to have occurred after 1855. By 1875 Woburn Street and the south side of Cottage Street were lined by small houses.

Beginning about 1855 but certainly by 1875, the vast majority of the residents in the Woburn Street area were Irish. Irish immigrants had begun moving to Lexington in the 1850s to work as laborers on farms and in other occupations. Those who could afford to rent or own their own houses soon became concentrated in the Woburn Street area, a section known as "Skunk Hollow". More research is needed to determine why the Irish settled along Woburn Street; perhaps it was because this was already a working-class neighborhood and was also near the railway line.

For more detail see:

Seasholes, Nancy S. Area form (F) for Woburn Street, 1984.